thrown through the Carpathians from

Along the battle line before Warsaw Bzura rivers to the Pilitza the Rucsians nave been drawn up in a defensive position that appears impregnable. The plan of the Grand Duke Nicholas is becoming evicent and military authorities here propnessy success for it. The German armies in the centre are to be left to hammer against a stone wall, while great pressure is being brought by the Russians on the extreme of the front in northern Poland and in the southern zone from Cracow to eastern Galicia.

All reports from Petrograd agree that

All reports from Petrograd agree that the Austrian advance, which threatened to become serious, has been definitely checked and that the Russians are again demonstrating their superiority over their foe. A large number of Austrians have been taken prisoners within the last twenty-four hours and the Russian lines are being pushed forward expeditiously.

At Przemysi too the Russians are showing renewed vigor and have won an important advantage in capturing a line of railway running directly into the railway running directly into the city. Along this line the final Russian assault will be delivered and the success of that

will be delivered and the success of that movement is now considered certain whenever the Grand Duke Nicholas decides that the moment has come to strike.

The importance of the operations in the Bzura-Vistula region is not underestimated, but the conclusion is drawn from the trend of the fighting along the strike lives that the Russians are at last entire lines that the Russians are at last drawn up in the defensive positions to which they have been gradually retiring since the capture of Lodz by the Germans.

It is believed now that both sides have reached their limit in bringing up troops to the Bzura River engagement. The Germans are said to have 1,000 000 men con-centrated at that point, and the Russians now have about an equal number. There is no room for any more and the conflict will be fought out on an equal basis from now on. Some fine marching under desperate conditions by Russian infantry is known to have presented a formidable. known to have prevented a formidable German dash beyond the Bzura. Indeed, at one time a small force had penetrated to within sixteen miles of the Polish capi-tal only to be driven back in disorder by newly arrived Cossacks.

The Russian official statement to-day indicates that the region on the left bank of the Pilitza will see some violent fighting within the next few days. Near Nowe Miasto the armies have been deadlocked since yesterday. On the light bank of the Filitza the Russians claim success, as they do also in Gallela, where the Austrians seem to have been firmly checked. Russeem to have been firmly checked. Rus-sian reports of the capture of a consider-able number of prisoners show that the new Russian armies which advanced through the Nida Valley have done their work effectually. The Russian statement

otinate fighting continues in the region of the villages of Jeseszee and Roj-kowawella, about six miles west of Nowe Miasto.

On the right bank of the Pilitza we have made progress in the vicinity of Opoczno and Tomaszow.

In Galicia our successes continue. South of the Vistula we captured, dur-ing December 20 and 21, 66 officers and 5,600 men, three cannon and 10

In the Carpathians, while pursuing retreating Austrians, we cap-d on December 22 30 officers and

About 1,000 men.

Near Przemysł the Austrians attempted a new sortie, during which several of their advance companies were completely annihilated. Other advance companies were taken prisoners. In this affair we seized about a mile of rallway leading into the city.

Opoczno is the furthest point of the Russian advance on the right bank of the Pilitza, and the danger of losing con-trol of the line of communications between Warsaw and the forces in Ga-licia caused the Grand Duke Nicholas to make particular efforts to prevent the Germans from continuing their progress in that region. Fresh artillery has been brought into action there and the rapid retirement of the Germans is confidently

The tactics of the Russians at present The factics of the Russians at present seem to be to hold fast in the centre, letting the Germans dash themselves against the apparently impregnable line directly in front of Warsaw and then to keep hammering away at the extreme wings and at other weak places in the line, in the expectation that the invaders will eventually be obliged to withdraw order to save their central forces.

GERMANS DRIVEN BACK.

Paris. Dec. 24.-The official statement given out to-day contained the following reference to the operations in the east: "On the Bzura River the Germans have "On the Bzura River the Germans have maintained themselves in two positions. On the contrary, at a point north of Sochaczow they were driven back to the river, which flows to the southwest of this town. Their efforts to debouch from Dolomow resulted in failure.

"At the present time the Germans are receiving to cross the River Bayks to the

"At the present time the Germans are essaying to cross the River Rayka to the southeast of Skierniewice. To the south of Rawa the Germans are resisting stubbornly a pronounced Russian offensive movement being delivered along the northern bank of the River Pilica."

CANADIANS AT FRONT TO-DAY.

Princess Patricia's Regiment Reported Sent to Trenches.

OTTAWA, Dec. 24.-Canadians learned through special cable despatches received to-day by the Department of Militia and Defence that the Princess Patricia's regi-ment will face the foe in the trenches on Christmas Day.

The despatch states that the Canadians are being called upon to relieve one of the crack English regiments, which has been given a rest after holding one of the most difficult positions in the vicinity of Ypres for a considerable time.

FAVOR ITALO-RUMANIAN UNION.

Pormer Stateamen Telegraph Approval From Bucharest.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. BUCHAREST, via Rome, Dec. 24 .- Many members of the Rumanian Parliament including ex-Ministers Lakovari, Nester and Xenopol, have approved with enand Xenopol, have approved with en-thusiasm the propaganda of the Italo-Rumanian League and have telegraphed to the league's promoters urging the necessity of strengthing the friendship between the two peoples united by origin

TRADE WITH FOES BARRED. France Forbids Commerce With Germans or Austrians.

pecial Cable Despatch to THE SUN Special Cable Despatch to The Svs.

Paris, Dec. 24.—A bil has been introduced in the Chamber of Deputies providing a severe penalty for anybody performing directly or as an intermediary an act of commerce with the subject of a nostile Power or his agents. The measure applies to negotiations on the Bourse and any attempt to realize on securities belonging to Germans or Austrians is liable to punishment.



THE accompanying map shows not only the great length of the eastern battlefront, which extends from East Prussia to eastern Galicia, but also the
way into which the opposing armies have been divided at the important points
of contact.

In northern Poland the region of activity is around Mlawa, where the Germans, in the latest Berlin reports, assert they have occupied the positions of the
Russian army which was attempting to execute a flank movement on the German
troops in central Poland.

Two more armies confront each other along the Bzura River, only about
thirty miles from Warsaw, Sochaczow, a Russian stronghold, is strongly assailed
by the Germans. The map also shows the zone of operations at Sklerniewice. Both
sides claim possession of this important town and the battle there is one of the
most severe of the war.

In the region of Tomaszow and Opoczno the Russians claim some success,
whereas they admit that the fighting at Nowo Miasto, on the left bank of the
Pilica, the encounter, which has continued for twenty-four hours, is still without
an issue.

an issue. The map also shows the scene of the fighting in southern Poland and in eastern and western Galicia, where the Russians are believed to have dealt another severe defeat to the Austrians.

VICTORY AT MLAWA REPORTED BY BERLIN

German Statement Announces Repulse of Allies in West Also.

LOST TRENCH RETAKEN

BERLIN, Dec. 24. by wireless to London.—The official communication issued to-day by the German General Headuarters Staff says:

The enemy did not renew his at-tacks in the neighborhood of Nieuport yesterday. At Blxschoote we took 230 prisoners on December 22. The enemy was again active yes-terday in the neighborhood of Cha-lons. Infantry attacks followed a

flerce artillery attack by the enemy in the regions of Souain and Perthes. These were repulsed. A trench kept under continuous artillery fire by the enemy was lost by us, but was recaptured in the evening. The position was abandoned after this successful counter attack because parts of the trenches had been almost levelled by the enemy's fire. More levelled by the enemy's fire. More than 100 prisoners were left in our

hands.

In the east we have assumed the offensive and are advancing from Neidenburg and Soldau (East Prussia). We have repulsed the Russians after several days fighting at Miawa (northern Poland) and the enemy's positions at Miawa again are in our hands. More than 1,000 prisoners were taken in these battles.

At the confluence of the Bzura and Rayka rivers fierce bayonet attacks

At the confluence of the Bzura and Ravka rivers fierce bayonet attacks took place at many places. The artillery could do little on account of the misty weather.

The Russians suffered heavy losses on hte right bank of the Pilitza River, in the district to the southeast of Tomaszow. The Russians attacked fiercely several times, but were repulsed by the Austro-German armies with heavy losses.

Further to the south the situation

Further to the south the situation generally is unchanged.

BERLIN CLAIMS NO GAIN.

Berlin, Dec. 24 (by wireless to Say-ville, L. I.).—The German Official Press Bureau gave out to-day the following information:

to aid the world diplomacy and policies of Great Britain, against which Russia has had a historic aversion."

The correspondent understands that the first concession demanded by Russia as a condition to peace will be the free use of the Black Sea and the Dardanelles in peace or war. "While there is general confidence that "While there is general connected that the Germans and the Ausirians are mak-ing progress along the extended battle line in the east, there is no indication either in the German or the Austran official reports that any marked advan-

tage had been won.

"Indeed, it is notable that Vienna uses the adjective 'favorable' in referring to the battles in the Carpathians, but contents itself with saying that the severe battles along the lower Dunajec River and on the Krasno-Tuckow line continue. and on the Krosno-Tuchow line continue.

Strikingly frank and inter sting is the official Vienna report concerning the Austrian withdrawal from Servia, which was due to the terrible conditions of the country and the weather and also the fact that the Servians had been reented to the terrible considerable from the fact that the Servians had been reented to the constant of the terrible involved. Strikingly frank and inter sting is the official Vienna report concerning the Ausfact that the S rvians had been reen-forced. The Austrians lost considerably in the retreat, but the spirit of their army is unsurpassable. The report also brings the first news that Field Marshal Oskar Pottorek has been relieved of command of the Austrian army on account of his

The Austrian General Staff refutes the allegation contained in a bulletin of the Russian General Staff that the Austrians lost 3,000 prisoners and a number of guns and machine guns, declaring this re-port quite unfound d. The total Austrian loss in killed, wounded and missing dur-ing the fights alluded to was 307. No gun or machine gun was lost.

NEW AUSTRIAN CHIEF.

London, Dec. 24.—An official statement issued in Vienna and forwarded by Reu-KING ALBERT IN ENGLAND.

ter's correspondent explains the recent defeat at the hands of the Servians and at the same time announces that Field at the same time announces that Field Marshal Oskar Pottorek, the Austrian Commander-in-Chief in that theatre of

Earl Curzon's Estate.

London, Dec. 24.—It is understood here that the King of the Belgians will spend Christmas Day in England. Officially the visit is decided and he will come strictly incognito.

Albert will arrive in Folkestone and will maint to Basingstoke, the estate of Earl Curzon in South England, where his three children are guests. The Queen la cither aiready at Basingstoke or will arrive with the King.

After the Christmas dinner the King will return to his army in Flanders. This is his first visit to England since the war segan.

At the same time announces that Freid Marshal Oskar Potlorek, the Austrian Special Cable Despatch to The Scn. Parts, Dec. 24.—The war has had the unexpected result of supplying Paris with good matches. The supply of the best matches made by the Government monopoly, called Suedoises, has been exchanged to complete the defeat of the enemy, but did not pay sufficient and the interference with the manufacture.

After the Christmas dinner the King will return to his army in Flanders. This is his first visit to England since the war segan.

opened an attack the offensive had been

"It was thought prudent not to ofter decisive battle under these unfavorable circumstances. Forced by adverse conditions, our troops retreated from Servia, but they are not defeated. That on our retreat we suffered severe losses in men and war material had been inevitable, but reports are much exaggerated concerning our losses."

GAIN IN CARPATHIANS.

Austrians Advance in Northeasterly Direction, Says Vienna Report.

VIENNA (via Berlin and London), Dec. 24 .- The following official statement was issued here to-day:

Our operations in the Carpathians are taking a normal course. Yesterday we took 300 prisoners and pressed forward further in a northeasterly direction. Toward the Ludkow passes our attacks gained some ground for

There is stubborn fighting near Krosno, Jasle and Tuchow in western Galicia and also along the lower Donajec. On the Nida, the Ravka and Bzura

rivers fighting continues. Fresh bat-tles are taking place along the whole

OVERTURES REPORTED

Washington Hears Czar Is Ready

to Stop Fight Against

the Kaiser.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 .- The Washington

Post prints a despatch saying that over tures for peace between Germany and

tures for peace between Germany and Russia are well under way, the negotiations being conducted through "one of the most powerful agencies in the world," friendly to both belligerents.

The despatch says the willingness of Russia to consider peace is based on the failure of the Austrian attack on Servia, which has eliminated the primary cause of

which has eliminated the primary cause of Russian mobilization—the protection of the Slav interests to the south. For Rus-sia to fight further, it says, "means chiefly to aid the world diplomacy and policies of

AUSTRIA SEEKS PEACE?

Cession of Galicia and Bosnia Said to Be Basis.

The New York American prints a mail

story from a staff correspondent in Paris

made unofficial peace overtures to the Allies through Venna bankers on the basis of the cession of Galicia to Russia.

WAR MUST GO ON.

Witte, Ex-Russian Premier, Says

Only Allies' Victory Can End It.

Rome, Dec. 23 (delayed).—Count Ser-gius Witte, former Russian Premier, has

glus Witte, former Russian Fremier, has telegraphed a denial of reports circulated in Rome that he was heading a pacificist party in Petrograd. He says; "At the beginning I deplored the war.

thinking it was not inevitable or indis-pensable, but since the war is in prog-ress any discussion regarding it would be

futile. Now that the war has assumed Russia a popular character it can er only with a decisive victory for Russia."

REAL MATCHES IN FRANCE.

War Brings at Least One Good Re

sult in Paris.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SCN.

this morning saying that Austria

of the territories involved.

RUSSO-GERMAN PEACE

French Forge Ahead, Taking and Holding Many Trenches

German Counter Attacks Fail Near Centre of Great Battle Line and in the Argonne, Where Fighting Is the Fiercest.

BELGIANS PUSH THE OFFENSIVE IN FLANDERS

Progress on Whole Line.

From the sea to the Lys we made

progress by sapping operations in the dunes, and we repulsed an attack in front of Lombaertzyde. At Zwarte-len, to the southeast of Ypres, we oc-

of a very spirited fire from the Ger-

certain detachments along the right bank of the Yaer to the south of Dix-mude, and organized a defensive work, protecting a bridge head.

In the region of Arras the fog still made all operations impossible.

To the east and to the southeast of Amiens, especially in the suburbs of Lassigny, there have been artillery exchange.

exchanges.
In the region of the Aisne the

Zouaves during all day yesterday held back brilliantly a number of at-tacks. They remained masters at a point near the road of Pulsaleine of

the German trenches occupied by us

positions taken by us in our advance of the night before in the region of Craenne and Rheims.

Craonne and Rheims.

In the vicinity of Perthes all the counter attacks of the enemy on the positions conquered by us December 22 were successfully repulsed. To the northwest of Mesnil-les-Hurlus we occurred the successful types of a distance of the successful types of

cupied German trenches for a distance of 400 yards, and we drove back a counter attack. The Germans endeavored to take the offensive in the direction of Ville-sur-Tourbe, but our artiflery dispersed them.

In the Argenne we took possession a piece of ground in the forest of a Grurie, and in the vicinity of Bag-

atelle we repulsed a German attack

duct of any operations of importance. The enemy delivered a counter attack but without success in the forest of

In the forest of Apremont our artil-

to evacuate several trenenes. In the

Woevre district the French artillery reduced certain German batteries to

In the region of Ban de Sapt, to the

northeast of St. Die, our infantry advanced with a rush and established itself on the territory thus gained.

There is nothing to report from up-

recember 21.

In Champagne we strengthened the

The afternoon report follows:

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

Paris, Dec. 24.—The official communiques issued to-day show unmistakably that that the Allies have gained consistently at all important points of contact during to-day and yesterday and have in addition defeated a series of German counter attacks, which are reported to have been conducted with a violence that has not been excelled since the rival armies engaged in the struggle on the lines now occupied from the sea to the lines now occupied from the sea to the

Swiss frontier. The most severe fighting has been in the Argonne district, where the Allies continue not only to make substantial progress, but to turn their gains to decided advantage by organization and strengthening of the captured territory. The currence of a German offensive at many points is regarded by military experts here as a certain indication that the enemy is beginning to feel the weight of the Allies' attack and realizes that passive defence will no longer suffice. From this point of view the success of the Allies in repulsing flerce counter attacks is one of the most encouraging features of the newly developed situation. The fighting in Fianders has taken sec-

ond place for the time being and all atten-tion is directed to the French advance in the Argonne. If this progress on both sides of the German wedge at St. Mihlel can be maintained for a few days longer it is regarded as certain that the Germans will either have to withdraw their forces at that point or else weaken other parts of their line to prevent envelopment.

Advance Well Organized.

The communiqué issued at 10:45 o'clock o-night is a direct supplement of the afternoon war office report in that it deals specifically with a number of points men-tioned in the resume of yesterday's operations and shows that the offensive is no a spasmodic affair but a carefully con-ceived and thoroughly executed military The night report mentions opened an attack the offensive had been given up.

"It was thought prudent not to offer decisive battle under these unfavorable to the artillery and that in France the of to-day's conflict were devoted to hold-ing off the Germans, who attacked with the apparent purpose of preventing the organization of the trenches won from them yesterday by the French. The night communiqué follows:

North of the Lys the enemy bombarded rather violently the neighbor-hood of the road from Ypres to Co-mines and the environs of Langemarck, but made no infantry attack, Before Boisselle, northeast of Albert, our troops have made slight progress. Last night a German attack on the St. Mard wood, east of Tracy-le-Val, was repulsed. We are organizing the trenches taken the day before yesterday near Puisaleine. The ground won by us in the Ban de Sapt, near Lau-mois, north of St. Die, has been main-

tained and organized.

No important news has come from the rest of the front. The afternoon report details at consid-

rable length the various attempts of the dermans to regain ground captured from them in previous days, all of which were repulsed, and also tells of several distinct advances by the Allies, notably at Mes-

prepared to move closer to the shore to ald the Franco-Belgian troops in their contemplated resumption of the offensive

contemplated resumption of the offensive in Flanders.

From all points along the battle line comes the report that the new French heavy artillery continues to maintain its advantage over the Germans and that this feature is largely responsible for the encouraging success of the attacks on hitherto impregnable German fortifications.

ALLIES GAIN AT LILLE.

'Advance Toward Clearing It of Enemy" Reported.

Special Cable Despatch to Tas Son London, Dec. 24.—A correspondent of the Times on the Belgian frontier says: "There is reason to believe that an appreciable advance has been made toward clearing Lille of the enemy."

LILLE PAYS \$1,400,000 "FINE." Second War Tax of \$200,000 Is Due

January 1. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN PARIS, Dec. 24.—A letter received here from M. Fabreguettes, Judge of the Court

ones replacing them on the following day. There is sufficient food and the supply of bread is holding out. A thousand German soldiers are in the hospital with typhoid fever and there are 300 wounded British soldiers in English ambulances who are cared for by the women of Lille.

A war indemnity of 7,000,000 francs (\$1,400,000 has been nail thanks to as \$1.500,000 has been nail to be with dead and wounded men half but the heaps of earth. The Germans this tried to run were caught by shells fallowed that the supply of the heaps of earth. The Germans the supply of the heaps of earth. The Germans the supply of the heaps of earth. The Germans the supply of the heaps of earth. The Germans the supply of the heaps of earth. The Germans the supply of the heaps of earth. The Germans the supply of the heaps of earth. The Germans the supply of the heaps of earth. The Germans the supply of the works.

cupled a group of houses, and we drove back as far as the southern part of this village a counter attack of the enemy; this was done in spite of a very suigitad. (\$1,400,000) has been paid, thanks to assistance given by all citizens possessing resources. Another million francs (\$200-000) is due on January 1. A furious cannonading has been audible in the city night and day for the past two months.

RUSH WORK ON RHINE FORTS.

Feverish Activity Reported on Heights Along the River.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. London, Dec. 24 .- A correspondent of the Times who has just returned from Germany thinks the most interesting part of Germany at present is the Rhine val-ley. Feverish work is in progress on the

ships of the Schuette-Lanz type are being says:
"The French submarine Curies with

NO CALL FOR JAPANESE ARMY.

Baron Kato Declines to Discuss Possible Request by Allies.

Torio, Dec. 24.—Baron Kato, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has informed the budget committee that Japan had not received squadron, the dangerous proximity of Foreign Affairs, has informed the bud-get committee that Japan had not received a request from any Government to send troops to Europe. He refused to say what Japan would do if such a request should

The budget committee has shelved the army increase question for a year. The House will meet to-morrow to decide the question and unless sixty members desert the Selvukai party dissolution of the Diet

JAPANESE SHIPS OFF PERU.

LIMA, Peru, Dec. 24.—Several English merchantmen convoyed by the Japanese battleship Hizen and a Japanese destroyer have arrived off Puerto de Pisura, on the northern coast of Peru. The warships anchored seven miles off shore. The Hizen and the destroyer came from

ONE LINE OF TRENCHES

After 15 Minutes Shelling Not a German Is Found When Infantry Dash In.

PARIS, Dec. 24 .- A correspondent at the front sends a story of the concentrated fire of 600 pieces of French artillery on a comparatively short stretch of German trenches not far from Arias. Infa charging after fifteen minutes of bombardment, found no one to sp

According to the correspondent Gen Joffre invited Col. Ignatieff, the Russlat military observer, and Col. Yarde-Bullet the English observer, to accompan a few days ago, telling them that would see "something never seen hef war." The 600 pieces of arrillery in position and the range had her
At a word from the commander
which was repeated over the tele from M. Fabreguettes, Judge of the Court of Cassation at Lille, says that fifteen civilians were killed and several hundred houses destroyed during the bombardment of the city on September 10. A number of hostages have been taken to the citadel each day by the Germans, new ones replacing them on the following day. The trenches had been torn to pieces with dead and wounded merchants was the sumply with dead and wounded merchants was the sumply with dead and wounded merchants.

The correspondent adds that it is probable that not a man defending this par

A paragraph in the German official statement of yesterday appears to confirm the foregoing despatch. The German statement refers to serious attacks on German trenches, "which were under continuous artillery fire," adding that the position had to be abandoned "because parts of the trenches were almost levelled by the enemy's fire."

FRENCH CRUISER TORPEDOED Little Damage Results From Attack

of Austrian Submarine.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—M. Augagneur, French Minister of Marine, isued this official statement to-day: "An Austrian submarine torpedoed a

ley. Feverish work is in progress on the fortifications on the heights along the river and the manufactories are desperately busy.

The Benz Company of Mannheim is sending out between eighty and one hundred big high speed automobiles every week. Many armored cars and three airships of the Schuette-Lanz type are being ships of the Schuette-Lanz type are ships of the Schuette-L

upon by our coast batteries without been able to deliver any attack members of her crew were imprisone "Our submarine No. 12 attacked cember 21 a French squadron, co-of sixteen ships, in the Otranto Cr



extend to you right hearty greets We wish you Happy Xmas—not been you have helped to make our flow season a great success (though we the

Nor because we hope to have you sho with us next Xmas—and next—and next Rut because it is Xmas time-time for riendly greeting

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